DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Crack a simile: Winning comparisons

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1390 was the latest of our dozens of contests in which the Empress offers a list of random items — this time generated in a brainstorm in the Style Invitational Devotees Facebook group — and the Losers have to say how any two are alike, different or otherwise linked.

4th place:

An extra-long nasal swab is like **John Bolton's ego:** Each is definitely irritating, but we can tolerate it if it helps defeat a deadly menace. *(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)*

3rd place:

The difference between **a Confederate statue** and **sourdough starter:** Everyone will smile when you announce that the starter will rise again. *(John Doherty, Great Mills, Md.)*

2nd place and the prank no-tear toilet paper:

How **a Zoom wedding** is like **a seat at the Tulsa rally:** In both cases, the best man is somewhere else. *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Trump's tie rack: Red neckwear. **A skull-motif face mask:** Redneck wear. *(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)*

Pairing down: Honorable mentions

The difference between **the Lincoln Memorial** and an **Angry Goldfish** is that the Lincoln Memorial doesn't look like a tiny version of the U.S. president. *(Dave Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)*

A Confederate statue and **the last roll of toilet paper:** The toilet paper is worth fighting for. *(Francis Canavan, Reston)*

A seat at the Tulsa rally: Masks optional. **A Zoom wedding:** Pants optional. *(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)*

A trikini and **FedEx Field:** By the time November rolls around, the season's over for both of them. *(Spencer Lu, Gaithersburg)*

A Confederate statue is **like Trump's tie rack:** Both will likely be moving soon. *(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)*

The Lincoln Memorial and a **Confederate statue:** See, very fine people on both sides! — D.T. *(Jeff Strong, Fairfax)*

A DIY haircut and **an empty seat at the Tulsa rally:** Both are said to be the work of hackers. *(J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)*

A DIY haircut and **FedEx Field:** Both usually feature unevenly matched sides. *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)*

An extra-long nasal swab and **a seat at the Tulsa rally:** Both are great for collecting covid samples. *(Duncan Stevens; Steve Smith, Potomac)*

An extra-long nasal swab vs. **a seat at the Tulsa rally:** The nasal swab could end up in the vicinity of a human brain. *(James Kruger, New York; Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)*

The Lincoln Memorial includes the words "with charity for all" — which is what the home team's defense usually shows at **FedEx Field**. *(Duncan Stevens)*

John Bolton's ego vs. the **Lincoln Memorial:** Marble heads don't swell. *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

The Lincoln Memorial vs. **FedEx Field:** FedEx Field last had four scores seven years ago. *(Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)*

Murder hornets and **the last roll of toilet paper:** One can induce mass fear and panic; the other is a type of invasive Asian insect. *(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)*

Murder hornets: We'll fail with a weak-kneed response. **Sourdough starter:** You'll fail with a weak-knead response. *(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)*

The difference between **a CBD pet treat** and **FedEx Field:** Train Rex with one; train wrecks at the other. *(Kevin Dopart, Washington)*

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1394: Two movies, one line

A line that could be used in both "Dirty Dancing" and "Three Men and a Baby": **"Baby's over there in the corner, guys. One of you should pick her up."**

How you could describe both "King Kong" and "Sleepless in Seattle": **He's at the top of the Empire State Building with the woman he loves. Will they leave together, or will he get shot down?**

A line that could be in both "Sex and the City" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood": **"Hold on a second — these shoes are killing me!"**

This novel contest was suggested by Loser Hildy Zampella, one of the great names of The Style Invitational, not only because of her 150 blots of Invite ink but because of her actual great name, which is up there with such Real-Named Losers of History as Elwood Fitzner, Dixon Wragg, Mike Thring and Chuck Smith. **This week: Cite a real or coined line, or give a description, that could work for two different movies, plays or TV shows,** as in Hildy's awfully good examples above.

Submit up to 25 entries total at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1394** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 3;** results will appear Aug. 23 in print, Aug. 20 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives this fetching grimace-on-black face mask, the first of four that the Empress ordered because, well, we need funny face masks, do we not?

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at *wapo.st/InvRules*. The headline "Crack a Simile" is by Bill Dorner; Bill as well as Jon Gearhart submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at *bit.ly/inkofday; follow* @StyleInvite *on Twitter*.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/conv1394.

Don't let a mask cover up a pretty smile. This week's second prize.

A Zoom wedding vs. **Trump's tie rack:** I look at one and think, "Tie that knot!" I look at the other and think, "Not that tie!" *(Neal Starkman, Seattle)*

The difference between **Trump's tie rack** and **Finland** is that Trump knows where his tie rack is. *(Bill Cromwell, Keswick, Va.)*

The last roll of toilet paper and **an extra-long nasal swab:** Neither will be the next title in the "Harry Potter and . . ." series. *(John Glenn, Tyler Tex.)*

Murder hornets and **a used firecracker** are both deadly, and both originated from CHINA . . . although one could be a hoax perpetrated by the Democrats to stop my reelection. Mike Pence will lead a task force to study this. *(Stephen Dudzik, Olney)*

A Zoom wedding vs. **a Confederate statue:** There will be tippling at the first, toppling at the second. *(Kevin Dopart)*

The last roll of toilet paper: Precious on-the-pot product. **A CBD pet treat:** Precious on the pot product. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

The last roll of toilet paper: RUSH TO A DRUGSTORE! **Sourdough starter:** It's an anagram of that. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

A used firecracker results from frightful bangs; **a DIY haircut** results IN frightful bangs. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

A DIY haircut: Took me an hour last Sunday. **2,300 Style Invitational entries**: Took Jesse Frankovich an hour last Sunday. *(Steve Smith)*

The Lincoln Memorial and **2,300 Style Invitational entries:** One is made of Doric columns; the other will make a dorky column. *(Dave Zarrow, Reston)*

A trikini: A pool fashion. **2,300 Style Invitational entries:** A fool's passion. *(Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)*

2,300 Style Invitational entries give you 20 percent more wipes than **the last roll of toilet paper.** *(John Kustka, Prince Frederick, Md.)*

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 27: better descriptions for anagram businesses. See wapo.st/invite1393.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

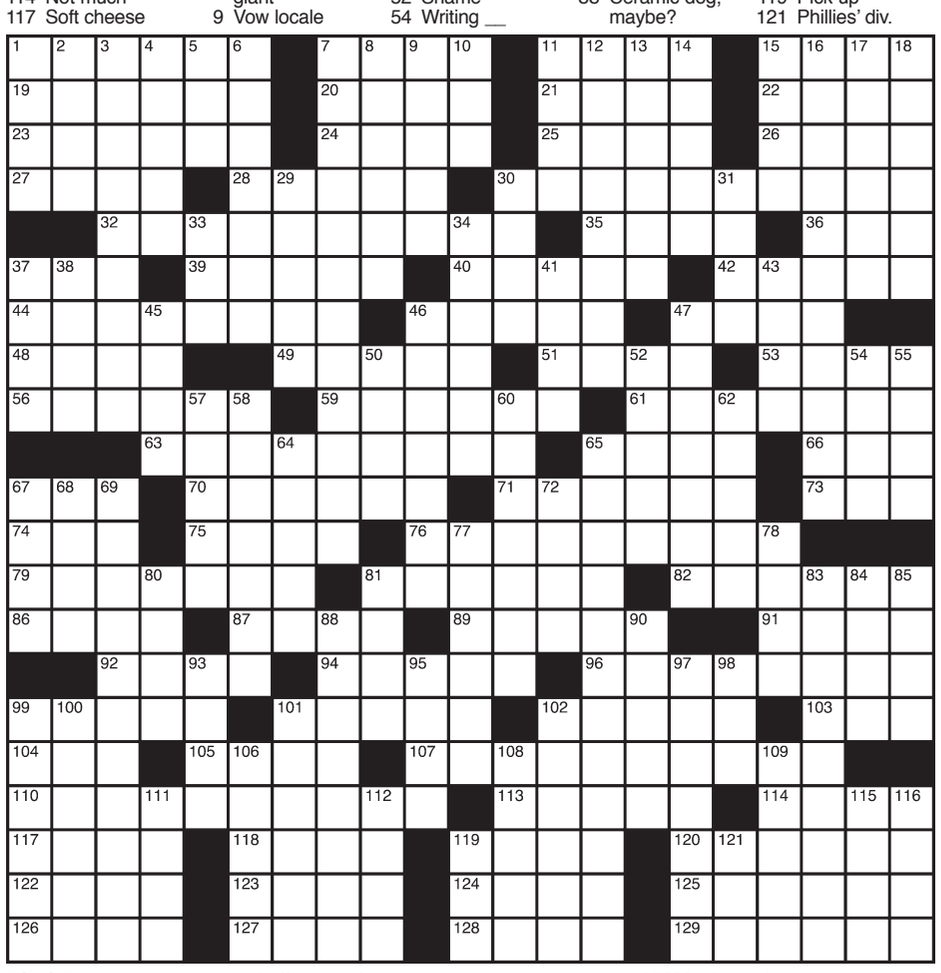
"ENDIVES" By DAVID ALFRED BYWATERS

ACROSS

1 Take pieces from?
7 Applaud
11 Practice fighting
15 Likely to evoke an "Eww!"
19 Big fan
20 Sword handle
21 Andrew Jackson carried one with a sword in it
22 Not just eat
23 Marie Curie has two of them
24 Tiny bit
25 Juan's "yesterday"
26 Grandson of Eve
27 Spirited style
28 Disney film set in Polynesia
30 Amphetamines, e.g.
32 Petit four purveyor
35 West Coast ZIP starter
36 Wore (away)
37 Econ. indicator
39 Alcohol type
40 Braided Jewish bread
42 Julia Louis-Dreyfus' eleven
44 Deutsche darling
46 Lab dish eponym
47 It was inspired by Sunshine Hydrox cookies
48 Not quite circular
49 Dangerous snake
51 Hebrew winter month
53 Finishes
56 Ill will
59 Something you don't see everyday
61 Derby favorite, say
63 Black-and-white
65 Get some rays
66 Neighbor of Mex.
67 Rehab symptoms, briefly
70 Where Tennyson's "light brigade" charged
71 Noble Brit
73 Cloud site
74 Very long time
75 Gift-wrapping aid
76 Asset in a crisis
79 Trite saying
81 Happened to
82 Use just one water ski
86 Hamlet's first option
87 Letter abbr.
89 1986 U.S. Open champ Raymond __
91 Over with
92 Dupes
94 Organic fertilizer
96 Domestic platforms
99 Not at all glossy
101 Actor Douglas and quarterback Cousins
102 Snowboarder White
103 Cigar discard
104 Latin lover's assertion
105 Horse color
107 Playground game with a rope and a pole
110 Wallabies and wombats
113 Bread source
114 Not much
117 Soft cheese
118 Notice
119 Sushi seaweed
120 Ready to play
122 Over again
123 Silhouetted road sign animal
124 Soon, long ago
125 Succumbs to static
126 Impertinence
127 Span. miss
128 Warp
129 Becomes aware of

DOWN

1 Jutland native
2 False god
3 Tearjerker's quality?
4 Large venue
5 Brother, e.g.: Abbr.
6 Title assassin in a 2005 Pitt-Jolie film
7 Mysterious foliage-sprouting proclivity?
8 Model train giant
9 Vow locale
10 Org. concerned with students
11 Vocal improv
12 Remit with goatskin?
13 Persistent weakness
14 Show again
15 Notion
16 Vehicle for transporting bark spice?
17 Difficult to solve
18 Words of assent
29 Rapper Ice Cube's first name
30 Senator's place
31 Lascivious look
33 Gumshoe
34 Spanish airline
37 Seize, slangily
38 Met celebrity
41 Donkey song?
43 Come across
45 Radar screen spot
46 Sheet material
47 Greek victim of the Furies
50 Glen cousin
52 Shame
54 Writing __
55 Legal suspension
57 Desert plants
58 Online stock transactions
60 Moving memoir subject?
62 Nordic toast
64 Get ready to eat?
65 Western hero noted for his thoughtfulness?
67 Card balance, say
68 Matador's opponent
69 Tales of social climbers?
72 Move, in some ads
77 Gush
78 Pops, to baby
80 Essence
81 Short-term memory?
83 Farmers market baked goods?
84 Change for a five
85 Netting
88 Ceramic dog, maybe?
90 "The Wreck of the Mary __"
93 Quechua is one of its official languages
95 Trading places: Abbr.
97 Text entries named for their traditional red color
98 Genetic letters
99 African snakes
100 Historic Nile excavation site
101 Roll or emperor
102 2000s Israeli leader Ariel
106 Slanted columns
108 Steak named for its shape
109 Virgil's language
111 Stitches up
112 Heavenly harp
115 Kansas-born playwright
116 Hardy's "Pure Woman Faithfully Presented"
119 Pick up
121 Phillies' div.



7/26/20 xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 26: Dynamic and charismatic, you succeed brilliantly this year on a provocative project of your own making. You tell it like it is, but remember to keep your close friends closer by being less blunt. If single, you need to be in a relationship, so you won't be single for long. If attached, you are all lovey dovey with your partner, who appreciates your strong affection. Aries can keep up with you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Be cautious about following advice; trust your own instincts if a project or investment seems risky. You can be vulnerable to peer pressure or a sales pitch today. Verify the claims of others and double-check guidelines.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Pull away from all situations that drain your energy. It's important to realize when a person or project is taking more than it's giving back. Get enough rest. Spiritual healing and natural remedies can restore your strength today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Accept and issue invitations today. You are loved and appreciated. If you are drawn to the fine arts, great creative potentials can be unleashed. Hobbies, a new love or the achievements of a younger person bring happiness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Today you are in the best place at the best time. Your past efforts are appreciated, and you are happy with yourself. Purchase needed household supplies and do home repairs. A feng shui treatment would be a good idea.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
A sibling seeks your advice. Learning a new subject or catching up on reading has appeal. A neighbor is helpful and has knowledge to share. Short journeys will be refreshing. Overall, today brings tremendous mental energy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
As an earth sign, money is seldom far from your thoughts. True wealth involves savoring simple pleasures today. Patience and a prosperity consciousness can help you reach your long-term goals. Your creative skills, personal contacts and competitive situations are assets.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today brings improved self-awareness. Look at how patterns impact your closest relationships. Be your own best friend by making changes. Channel competitive feelings into positive pursuits. Cultivate kind and upbeat associates.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Others seem preoccupied. It is not easy to share thoughts and plans. Music or an art project can help you process what's going on. Your sense of hearing is especially keen. Avoid loud noises. You'll enjoy times of quiet reverie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Choose your friends carefully. Associates who complicate your life should be kept at a distance now. Kind, talented associates open more appealing avenues of activity for you. Become more active in community work or groups.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
You will have an opportunity to demonstrate your talents. The right people are noticing you. Gaze into a new mirror and tell your reflection exactly where you want your life to go. Catch up with an elderly family member.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You're restless, and expanding your sphere of activity would be refreshing. Accept a friend's invitation to a study group. A sudden travel opportunity should not be passed up. The change of scene could transform your entire life's direction for the better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
A companion whom you've lost track of can resurface. Double-check all agreements and instructions, for questions of propriety can come into play. Adopt a live-and-let-live attitude concerning those who express differences. Keep demands and expectations to a minimum.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

B	R	O	A	C	H	■	A	S	S	A	D	■	N	A	M	E	■	A	P	R		
R	A	N	C	H	O	■	H	A	I	L	E	■	I	C	A	L	■	C	H	O		
I	N	T	H	E	B	L	I	N	K	O	F	A	N	E	Y	E	■	C	A	B		
E	T	H	E	R	N	E	T	■	H	E	I	N	E	■	I	N	J	U	R	E		
F	O	E	■	■	O	N	U	S	■	S	E	N	T	A	■	A	E	S	I	R		
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A	S	A	D	A	■	F	A	R	E	S	■	■	E	A	T	A	B	L	E	S		
A	P	R	I	O	R	I	■	B	L	O	W	I	N	G	A	F	U	S	E	■		
T	A	P	S	■	E	T	C	■	E	M	I	T	■	O	R	B	S	■	■	■		
E	R	A	T	■	P	T	A	S	■	E	N	A	M	O	R	■	H	A	G	S		
A	T	T	■	■	R	O	V	E	R	■	S	L	I	D	E	■	■	M	E	H		
M	A	H	I	■	O	B	A	M	A	S	■	O	N	C	D	■	P	I	L	E		
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O	S	S	A	■	S	E	U	S	S	■	S	O	D	■	F	A	R	M	■	■		
G	E	N	O	A	■	D	D	A	Y	S	■	T	O	N	I	■	■	I	C	Y		
G	L	O	S	S	Y	■	A	R	D	E	N	■	P	T	B	A	R	N	U	M		
I	O	U	■	F	O	A	M	I	N	G	A	T	T	H	E	M	O	U	T	H		
A	S	S	■	O	K	R	A	■	E	U	B	I	E	■	R	E	D	T	E	A		
S	E	E	■	R	E	I	N	■	Y	E	S	O	R	■	S	N	E	E	R	S		

7/19/20

The Movie Directory has gone dark. We will raise the curtain again as soon as events warrant. The Washington Post